

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Monday, March 15, 2010

...2010 National Flood Safety Awareness Week...

The National Weather Service is hosting the annual Flood Safety Awareness Week campaign today through Friday, March 19th.

The topic for today is the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, also known as AHPS, which is part of a continuing effort by the National Weather Service to modernize hydrologic services. The AHPS provides forecast information including more accurate predictions of the magnitude and likelihood of hydrologic events, ranging from droughts to floods.

The AHPS provides long-range river forecasts in addition to the five-day river forecasts you have always seen. These forecasts include the Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook, formerly known as the Snowmelt Flood Outlook, normally issued early in the spring of each year.

Everyone can benefit from the AHPS. Because every minute counts, the AHPS can help emergency managers be more proactive to defend against a flood, and provide community leaders and business owners with additional information to make better life saving decisions about evacuations or moving property before a flood. The navigation community will be able to plan with better confidence and optimize shipping operations, potentially saving millions of dollars each year. Recreational users will be able to stay out of harm's way.

The AHPS provides the public with more detailed and accurate answers to the following questions:

- How high will the river rise?
- When will the river reach its peak?
- Where will the flooding occur?
- How long will the flood last?
- How long will the drought last?
- How certain is the forecast?

Additional information about the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service and Flood Safety Awareness Week can be found at WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV.